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HOUSEBOATING ON A COLONIAL WATERWAY. By Frank and Cortelle Hutchins. Illustrated with many photographs by the authors. L. C. Page & Company, Boston, 1910, pp. xii, 299, with an index.

For those who know and love the lower James it has an atmosphere, a character, all of its own. It is hard to name or to describe. In thinking of the impression it produces, however, the words "a haunt of ancient peace" come to the mind. It has been in the past far from a peaceful country; but now with its shining river, its old homesteads which seem to be dreaming among their trees and flowers, its quiet, sunny fields; it seems to be resting—the very incarnation of peace.

Only a few can know this historic river intimately; but very many can and will make its acquaintance and learn something of the restful happiness which such an acquaintance gives through the delightful pages of this book.

Without any hurry or any particular destination the houseboat *Gadabout*, with its happy crew, floated leisurely to and fro. From Newport News to Jamestown, lingering days in the cosy harbor of Back River at that historic place; then on to Brandon, and by Weyanoke, Flower de Hundred, Westover, Berkeley, finally to Shirley and on to winter quarters at Richmond. Much has been written of these places, but few visitors have had the opportunity to become so intimately acquainted with them or to make such good use of that acquaintance. There is all of the accurate history one wishes in a book of travel, but fortunately it has not been allowed to overweigh or burden the delightful narrative.

The numerous photographs add to the interest of the book, which one closes with a strong desire that the "Commodore," the "Daughter-Wife," and "Her Mother," would go again and invite the reader to be one of the party.

A GENEALOGY OF THE DUKE-SHEPHERD-VAN METRE FAMILY. From Civil, Military, Church and Family Records and Documents. Compiled and edited by Samuel Gordon Smyth, Member of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and of the Historical Societies of Montgomery and Bucks Counties in Pennsylvania. Press of the New Era Printing Company, Lancaster, Pa., 1909.

"If self, and things connected with self, be the legitimate source of feeling, we surely may acquire a firmer hold upon the affections of men by tracing lines of communication between this age and the past; threads as it were, which connect the transactions of those days with our own perceptions. A pedigree thus becomes a sort of conductor to that subtle agent, which usually acts at an elevation beyond the ordinary sphere of mortal feeling; but when thus brought down, it warms even the dullest bosom with a sympathy for people of remote times."

The English, the Dutch, the French are the intermingling strands in the pedigree here given—the warp and woof of the texture in which so

many Virginians, with other Americans, see their origin. From their French ancestor, Louis du Bois, they can be traced to a remote antiquity. This family, beginning with Macquaire du Bois, Count de Roussey, A. D., 1110, by its alliance, in the person of Charles du Bois with Claude de Lannoy, a descendant of Henry VI, Duc de Bavaria and Sarxe, A. D. 1200, gathered in a sheaf of illustrious forbears, and was carried back to Guelf, Prince of the Scyri, A. D. 479. These ancestors included Charlemagne, Alfred the Great, Hugh Capet, King of France; Henry I, Emperor of Germany, and William the Conqueror, through Henry I and Henry II of England.

We know that our "Americans of Royal Descent" share their birthright with peasants and plowmen, and that it is in reality no distinction since this blood of kings has permeated through every stratum of society, yet the imagination kindles at the thought of these golden links in the long chain of the generations. It is an inspiring thought, for those who can prove such a pedigree, that they are of the lineage of the great crowned rulers, soldiers and statesmen of these earlier ages; men who built up and pulled down dynasties, who made militant history with the point of their swords, or blazoned its pages with noble achievements in the gentle arts of peace. Who would not, if he could, claim kinship with the good Alfred the Saxon, or with that splendid type of man and sovereign, whose name illumines a barbarous age, Charlemagne?

The Van Meterens of Holland derived their patronymic from *van* of and *Meteren*, a town in Guelderland. They had a distinguished representative in the sixteenth century in Emmanuel Van Meteren, Dutch consul in London and chief of the college of Dutch Merchants of London, 1583. He was also an eminent historian. He has an association with the New World through his friendship with Capt. Hendrick Hudson, and he is authority for the statement that a warm attachment existed between Hudson and our valiant "Virginian," Capt. John Smith. The Van Meteren house in Geldermalsen—"Huize Meteren"—a fine mansion in a beautiful park, long the residence of prominent members of the family, was torn down as recently as 1906.

Jan Joosten Van Meteren, the founder of the family in America, came to New Amsterdam in 1662, with his wife and five children. His son Jooste Jans, or John Van Metre, as the name is now known, married Sara, daughter of Louis and Catharine du Bois, Huguenot refugees who had fled first to Mannheim in Germany and from there to Ulster county, New York. Both the elder John Van Metre and Louis du Bois had settled near Kingston, and a thrilling incident is related in connection with their families in 1663, when the Indians made a descent from the Catskill Mountains upon the little Dutch settlement. After killing and wounding a number of the inhabitants the Indians carried off many of the women and children, among them those of the households of Du

Bois and Van Metre. They languished for ten weeks in captivity, when the Indians, in celebration of their escape from pursuit, decided to burn one of their prisoners. The choice fell upon Catharine du Bois and her infant Sara. "A cubical pile of logs was arranged and the mother and child were placed upon it. When the Indians were about to apply the torch, Catharine began to sing a Huguenot hymn she had learned in earlier days in France. The Indians withheld the fire and listened. When she finished they demanded another song and then another. Before the last hymn was finished Dutch soldiers arrived, the captives were all rescued, and the Indians terribly punished."

Louis du Bois, with Capt. Martin Krieger, a Dutch soldier, headed the rescue party, and after three months of unsuccessful skirmishing with the wily foe, succeeded in defeating the Indians and rescuing his wife and child from the terrible fate that awaited them. Both Louis du Bois and John Van Metre became prominent in their community as pioneers and leaders in civil and church affairs. The former was one of the twelve patentees of the Huguenot town of New Paltz, and was looked upon as its founder. He went out again against the Indians, in 1670, with the colonial forces raised to repel their incursions.

John Van Metre left New York for New Jersey about 1689, where he purchased, in partnership with a son-in-law, a plantation of 500 acres on the Delaware river, afterwards the site of the city of Burlington. He bought lands later in Somerset county. An inventory of his estate in 1706 included six negroes—a man, a woman, and four children—valued at \$145. It is not known whether John Van Metre, the second of his name, died before or after his father, but there are strong reasons for the belief that he did survive him, and that he was the John Van Metre known in the annals of the period as "the Indian trader." John and Isaac Van Metre, grandsons of the immigrant, after a sojourn in New Jersey, migrated to Maryland and Virginia. These brothers, John and Isaac, sons of John Van Metre and Sara Du Bois, obtained a grant of 40,000 acres of land, in 1730, from Governor Gooch upon condition that a certain number of families should be located on the land within a limited time. The Van Metres assigned this grant in 1731 to Jost Hite, who soon had the required colonists on the ground. Baron Hite—for such was his title—with his patriarchal household, consisting of eight sons and daughters with their wives, husbands and children, and sixteen other families, were the pioneers in this emigration to Western Virginia.

The wife of Baron Hite, Anna Maria du Bois, was a descendant of the Counts de Roussey, and the Hites and Van Metres were connected by marriage in the next generation, as Rebecca, daughter of John Van Metre and Sara du Bois, married in 1704 Cornelius Elting, and their daughter, Sara Elting, married Col. John Hite, son of Baron Hite.

With Capt. Thomas Shepherd, the founder of Shepherdstown, the Shepherd genealogy begins. The tradition in the family makes him

one of three brothers who came to America from Shopshire, or Wales. But the crest on a piece of ancestral plate owned by one of the Virginia Shepherds would seem to connect them with the Devonshire family of that name. Thomas Shepherd married, about 1733, Elizabeth, granddaughter of John Van Metre and Sara du Bois. He had settled first in Maryland, but crossed the Potomac about this time, making his home on the Van Metre-Hite grant. Here he founded the town of Mecklenburg, which was incorporated in 1762. After the death of Thomas Shepherd the name was changed to Shepherdstown. He was one of the notable figures in the early settlement of West Virginia. The title of "Captain," given to Thomas Shepherd, arose, it is conjectured, from the fact that he built and commanded a fort in the town of Mecklenburg as a protection against the Indians. He left his family—and he had ten children—an ample estate, lots in the town of Mecklenburg, tracts of land, grist mills, and the yearly rents from the village he had established. Of good Church of England stock, apparently, he thus provides in his will for his parish church: "It is my desire that the lot in the town of Mecklenburg on which the English church stands known by No. 40, be the sole use of the Parish of Norbounne free from Ground rent and my heirs to give to the vestry a deed for it if required."

The Shepherd name was handed down to worthy successors. Col. David Shepherd, eldest son of Capt. Thomas Shepherd, defended the frontiers both before, during and after the Revo'utionary War. He was in command at the siege of Fort Henry (Wheeling in 1776) where he lost both a son and son-in-law. He was commissary of the troops on the Ohio in 1776, and County Lieutenant of Ohio county from 1776 until his death in 1795.

The Duke family comes into this book through the marriage, in 1773, of Sarah, daughter of Col. David Shepherd, to Francis Duke, son of John Duke, of Berkeley county, Virginia. Mr. Smyth is of this Duke line, and he has give much space to the various Duke families of Virginia and other States. The author of this volume is to be commended for his great industry and painstaking research in collecting data as to all of these pioneers and many of their posterity. Incidentally he has rendered a great service to Virginia in the light he has thrown upon the history of the early settlement of her western border.

KATE MASON ROWLAND.

It should be added for the benefit of those not especially interested in any of the families treated of, that the book contains a great deal of matter, largely from public records, throwing light on the details of the history of what was the northwestern portion of Virginia —ED.